THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have constituted the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities *vide* Resolution dated 29th October, 2004.

(b) The terms and reference of the Commission are:

(i) to suggest criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities;

(ii) to recommend measures for welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and Government employment;

(iii) to suggest the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative modalities as required for the implementation of their recommendations, and to present a Report of their deliberations and recommendations.

Addition

(iv) to give its recommendations on the issues raised in W.P. 180/04 and 94/05 filed in the Supreme Court and in certain High Courts relating to para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, in the context of ceiling of 50% reservation as also the modalities of inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes.

Composition of the Commission:

The commission consists of a Chairperson, three Members and a Member-Secretary.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The question does not arise. The report is likely to take some time as the Commission is in the process of collecting data, visiting States/Union Territories, organizing Workshops on religious and linguistic minorities etc.

Schemes for welfare of minorities

2220. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented for welfare of minorities in Punjab;

(b) the details of actual benefits that have accrued to the minorities in the State as a result thereof;

(c) the details of the complaints/suggestions received so far in respect of such schemes; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Following schemes are being implemented for the welfare of minorities in the country, including Punjab:

(i) Scheme of pre-examination coaching for weaker sections including minorities, based on economic criteria, for recruitment in services and admission in professional courses.

(ii) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) provides loans for the economic empowerment of Minorities and loans for pursuing professional and technical courses.

(iii) The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) promotes education amongst the minorities.

(iv) The Central Wakf Council (CWC) provides grants-in-aid for development of urban Wakf properties.

(b) A Statement showing the funds released under these schemes alongwith the number of beneficiaries is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(c) No complaint received.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Funds released under the scheme for welfare of minorities

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Funds released to institutions/beneficiaries in the State of Punjab	No. of beneficiaries
1	2	3	4
1.	Coaching and allied assistance for weaker sections including SC, OBC and Minorities	Rs. 87.46 lacs (During last three years)	1490

1	2	3	4
2.	National Minorities Development Corporation (NMDFC)	Rs. 2278.88 lacs	4756
3.	Schemes run by Maulana Azad Education Foundation	Rs. 61.67 lakhs	6 NGOs & 24 scholarships
4.	Schemes run by Central Wakf Council:		
	(i) Scheme for the Development of Urban Wakf Properties	(i) Rs. 89.08 lakhs so far	(i) 2 projects
	(ii) Scheme for the Educational Development	(ii) Adhoc grant Rs. 59,500	(ii) 17 students
		(iii) Scholarship Rs. 48,000 (During the year 2005-06)	(iii) 6 students

Package for revival of SSIs

2221. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special economic package has been provided to various States of the country particularly the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and till date to revive the Small Scale Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Central Gvoernment does not provide any financial assistance for rehabilitation of sick Small Scale Industries (SSI). However, financial assistance, by way of debt restructuring, including fresh loans, etc., for the rehabilitation of sick SSI is provided by the primary lending institutions (PLI), including the commercial banks. For this purpose, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines to banks from time to time on detection of sickness in SSI at an early stage and taking remedial measures and for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable. After the detailed guidelines of January 2002, the RBI has issued fresh guidelines on 8th September 2005, based on the "Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) announced by the Central Government